Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (cancelled)

- 1 Claim 3 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system of claim 84, wherein said issuance of said
- 3 exchange certificate occurs only after said settlement
- 4 processing section has settled the charge.
- 1 Claim 4 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 3, wherein, in a case
- 3 where said second terminal receiving said exchange certificate
- 4 is a portable mobile terminal, submission of said exchange
- 5 certificate to the server and/or transmission of the
- 6 electronic asset to the second terminal that has the exchange
- 7 certificate are carried out by way of a stationary terminal
- 8 which can exchange data with the terminal.
- Claim 5 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 3, wherein the exchange
- 3 certificate comprises settlement information indicating that
- 4 the charge billed to the electronic asset has already been
- 5 settled, and status information indicating that the
- 6 corresponding electronic asset has not yet been received.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The electronic asset 1 as defined in claim 5, wherein utilization system 2 an 3 expiration date by which the exchange certificate can exchanged for the corresponding electronic asset is set for 4 the exchange certificate. 5

Claim 7 (previously presented): The electronic asset 1 utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein, in a case 2 where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for 3 the electronic asset even though the expiration date has nearly arrived, the server sends, to the one of said first, 5 second, or another terminal to which the exchange certificate 6 has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration 7 date has nearly arrived. 8

Claim 8 (previously presented): The electronic asset 1 utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein, in a case 2 where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for 3 the electronic asset even when the expiration date has nearly 4 arrived, the server issues to the one of said first, second, 5 or another terminal to which the exchange certificate has been 6 transmitted a request for downloading the electronic asset or 7 forcibly transmits the electronic asset to the one of said 8

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9 first, second, or another terminal to which the exchange

10 certificate has been transmitted.

1 Claim 9 (previously presented): The electronic asset

2 utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein the server

further includes past-due processing means, and in the event

4 that the exchange certificate still has not been exchanged for

5 the corresponding electronic asset even after lapse of the

6 expiration date of the exchange certificate, the past-due

7 processing means sends, to the one of said first, second, or

8 another terminal to which the exchange certificate has been

transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration date has

10 passed and a request for downloading the electronic asset, or

11 forcedly transmits the electronic asset.

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): The electronic asset

2 utilization system as defined in 9, wherein the past-due

3 processing means issues to the one of said first, second, or

4 another terminal to which the exchange certificate has been

transmitted a request for deleting or invoking the expired

6 exchange certificate.

1 Claim 11 (previously presented): The electronic asset

utilization system as defined in 9, wherein, upon receipt of

3 the message or the download request from the server, the one

- 4 of said first, second, or another terminal indicates, on a
- 5 display section, the message or details of the download
- 6 request and/or details of the exchange certificate.
- 1 Claim 12 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 9, wherein, upon
- 3 receipt of the message or the download request from the
- 4 server, the one of said first, second, or another terminal
- 5 issues voice notification indicating receipt of the message or
- 6 the download request.
- 1 Claim 13 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 10, wherein, upon
- 3 receipt of the request for deleting or invoking the expired
- 4 exchange certificate from the past-due processing means, the
- 5 one of said first, second, or another terminal deletes or
- 6 invokes the exchange certificate.
- 1 Claim 14 (withdrawn): An electronic asset utilization
- 2 system comprising:
- a terminal which is connected to a communications network
- 4 and outputs a signal for requesting booking of a desired
- 5 electronic asset; and
- a server which is connected to the communications network
- 7 and comprises

- 8 issuance means for issuing a receipt certificate
- 9 verifying booking of a desired electronic asset represented by
- 10 the signal,
- processing means for transmitting the receipt certificate
- 12 issued by the issuance means to the terminal or to another
- 13 predetermined terminal, and
- settlement processing means for settling a charge billed
- 15 to the electronic asset corresponding to the receipt
- 16 certificate, wherein,
- in a case where the receipt certificate is submitted to
- 18 the server by way of the communications network, after the
- 19 settlement processing means has settled the charge billed to
- 20 the electronic asset corresponding to the receipt certificate
- 21 in accordance with requirements described on the receipt
- 22 certificate, the issuance means issues the electronic asset
- 23 corresponding to the receipt certificate and the processing
- 24 means transmits the electronic asset to the terminal that has
- 25 submitted the receipt certificate.
- 1 Claim 15 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization
- 2 system as defined in claim 14, wherein, in a case where the
- 3 terminal is a portable mobile terminal, submission of a
- 4 receipt certificate to the server, settlement of the charge
- 5 billed to the electronic asset, and/or transmission of the
- 6 electronic asset to the terminal that has submitted the

- 7 receipt certificate are carried out by way of a stationary
- s terminal which is connected to the communications network, can
- 9 transfer data with respect to the terminal, and is disposed to
- 10 be stationary.
- 1 Claim 16 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization
- 2 system as defined in claim 14, wherein the receipt certificate
- 3 contains information about the booked electronic asset and
- 4 information about the receipt certificate.
- 1 Claim 17 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization
- 2 system as defined in claim 16, wherein an expiration date is
- 3 set for the receipt certificate such that the electronic asset
- 4 can be received before its expiration.
- 1 Claim 18 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization
- 2 system as defined in claim 17, wherein the server issues to
- 3 the terminal to which the receipt certificate has been
- 4 transmitted a request for deleting or invoking an expired
- 5 receipt certificate.
- 1 Claim 19 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization
- 2 system as defined in claim 18, wherein, upon receipt of the
- 3 request for deleting or invoking the expired receipt

4 certificate from the server, the terminal deletes or invokes

5 the receipt certificate.

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Claim 20 (cancelled)

1 Claim 21 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization

2 system as defined in any one of claims 2, 3, and 14, wherein

3 the server has retaining means for retaining the electronic

asset, the exchange certificate, and/or the receipt

certificate issued by the issuance means, and the retaining

means retains the electronic asset even when the exchange

certificate corresponding to the retained electronic asset has

8 expired and retains the receipt certificate even when the

9 retained receipt certificate has expired.

1 Claim 22 (previously presented): The electronic asset

2 utilization system as defined in claim 84, wherein the server

3 further includes electronic asset status management means for

4 managing the date and the time of issuance status of the

electronic asset, an effective term of the electronic asset,

6 whether there is the exchange certificate or not, and the

7 effective term of the exchange certificate, wherein the

8 electronic asset is issued by the issuance section, and

wherein the exchange certificate is managed correspondingly to

10 the electronic asset.

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Claims 23-32 (cancelled)

- 1 Claim 33 (withdrawn): An electronic asset utilization
- 2 method using an electronic asset utilization system having a
- 3 terminal connected to a communications network and a server
- 4 connected to the communications network, the method
- 5 comprising:
- a booking request step of requesting booking of a desired
- 7 electronic asset;
- a receipt certificate issuance step of issuing a receipt
- 9 certificate verifying booking of a desired electronic asset
- 10 requested in the booking request step;
- a receipt certificate transmission step of transmitting,
- 12 to the terminal or another predetermined terminal, the receipt
- 13 certificate issued in the receipt certificate issuance step;
- 14 a receipt certificate submission step in which the
- 15 terminal submits a receipt certificate to the server by way of
- 16 the communications network;
- a settlement step of settling a charge billed to the
- 18 electronic asset submitted in the receipt certificate
- 19 submission step, in accordance with requirements described in
- 20 the receipt certificate;
- 21 an electronic asset issuance step of issuing the
- 22 electronic asset corresponding to the receipt certificate; and

an electronic asset transmission step of transmitting to the terminal that has submitted the receipt certificate the electronic asset issued in the electronic asset issuance step.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization 1 method as defined in claim 33, wherein, in a case where the 2 terminal is a portable mobile terminal, in the receipt 3 certificate submission step, the settlement step, and/or the 4 electronic asset transmission step, submission of a receipt 5 certificate to the server, settlement of the charge billed to 6 the electronic asset and/or transmission of the electronic 7 asset are carried out by way of a stationary terminal which is 8 connected to the communications network, can transfer data 9 with respect to the terminal, and is disposed to 10 stationary. 11

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 33 or 34, wherein the receipt certificate contains information about the booked electronic asset and information about the receipt certificate.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization
method as defined in claim 35, wherein an expiration date is
set for the receipt certificate such that the electronic asset
can be received.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization 1 method as defined in claim 36, further comprising a receipt 2 certificate deletion/ invocation step of issuing 3 terminal to which the receipt certificate has been transmitted 4 an request for deleting or invoking expired receipt 5 6 certificate.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization 1 method as defined in any one of claims 23, 24, 25, and 26, 2 further comprising a retransmission step of, in an event that 3 transmission of the issued electronic asset, exchange receipt certificate has failed certificate, or 5 electronic asset transmission step, the electronic asset 6 forced transmission step, the exchange certificate 7 transmission step, or the receipt certificate transmission 8 retransmitting the electronic asset, the 9 certificate, or the receipt certificate. 10

Claims 39-47 (cancelled)

Claim 48 (previously presented): The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein, in a case where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for the electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate

5 even when the expiration date has nearly arrived, the server

6 sends, to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has

7 been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration

8 date has nearly arrived, and

in a case where the exchange certificate has not yet been

10 exchanged for the electronic asset corresponding to the

11 exchange certificate even when the expiration date is

12 imminent, the server issues to the terminal to which the

13 exchange certificate has been transmitted a request for

14 downloading the electronic asset, or forcibly transmits the

15 electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate to

16 the terminal.

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Claim 49 (cancelled)

1 Claim 50 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization

2 system as defined in claim 17, wherein, in a case where the

3 receipt certificate has not yet been exchanged for the

4 electronic asset corresponding to the receipt certificate even

when the expiration date is close at hand, the processing

6 means sends, to the terminal to which the receipt certificate

7 has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration

8 date is close at hand.

- Claim 51 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization
 system as defined in claim 17, wherein the terminal displays
 at least one of the message and a content of the receipt
 certificate on a display portion, when the terminal receives
 the message from the server.
- Claim 52 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization
 system as defined in claim 50 or 51, wherein the terminal
 generates a sound representing a receiving of the message,
 when the terminal receives the message from the server.
- Claim 53 (withdrawn): The electronic asset utilization 1 method as defined in claim 36, further comprising third 2 message sending step for sending to the terminal to which the 3 receipt certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating 4 that the expiration date has nearly arrived, in a case where 5 the receipt certificate has not yet been exchanged for the 6 7 electronic asset corresponding to the receipt certificate even when the expiration date has nearly arrived. 8
- Claim 54 (previously presented): The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 84, wherein the exchange certificate comprises settlement information indicating that the charge billed to the electronic asset has

- 5 already been settled, and status information indicating that
- 6 the corresponding electronic asset has not yet been received.
- The electronic asset 1 Claim 55 (previously presented): utilization system as defined in claim 7, wherein, in a case 2 where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for 3 the electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate 4 even when the expiration date has nearly arrived, the server 5 issues to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has 6 been transmitted a request for downloading the electronic 7 asset or forcibly transmits the electronic asset corresponding 8 to the exchange certificate to the terminal. 9

Claims 56-71 (cancelled)

Claim 72 (previously presented): The electronic asset 1 utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein the server 2 has past-due processing means, and in the event that the 3 exchange certificate still has not been exchanged for 4 5 corresponding electronic asset even after lapse οf the expiration date of the exchange certificate, the past-due 6 7 processing means sends, to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that 8 the expiration date has passed and a request for downloading

- 10 the electronic asset, or forcedly transmits the electronic
- 11 asset.

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- 1 Claim 73 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 72, wherein the past-
- 3 due processing means issues to the terminal to which the
- 4 exchange certificate has been transmitted a request for
- 5 deleting or invoking the expired exchange certificate.
- 1 Claim 74 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 73, wherein, upon
- 3 receipt of the message or the download request from the
- 4 server, the terminal to which the exchange certificate has
- 5 been transmitted indicates, on a display section, the message
- 6 or details of the download request and/or details of the
- 7 exchange certificate.
- 1 Claim 75 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 74, wherein the server
 - has retransmission processing means, and, in the event that
- 4 transmission of the electronic asset or the exchange
- 5 certificate has failed, retransmission processing means
- 6 comprised in said server retransmits the electronic asset or
- 7 the exchange certificate, respectively.

Claims 76-77 (cancelled)

1 Claim 78 (previously presented): The electronic asset

2 utilization system as defined in one of claims 7, 8, and 55,

3 wherein past-due processing means comprised in said server

4 issues to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has

5 been transmitted a request for deleting or invoking the

6 exchange certificate that has expired.

1 Claim 79 (previously presented): The electronic asset

2 utilization system as defined in claim 78, wherein, upon

3 receipt of a request for deleting or invoking the expired

4 exchange certificate from the past-due processing means, the

5 terminal deletes or revokes the exchange certificate.

1 Claim 80 (previously presented): The electronic asset

2 utilization system as defined in claim 7, wherein, upon

3 receipt of the message or the message from the server, the

4 terminal that received the exchange certificate indicates, on

5 a display section, the message and/or information of the

6 exchange certificate.

- 1 Claim 81 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 7, wherein, upon
- 3 receipt of the message from the server, the terminal issues
- 4 voice notification indicating receipt of the message.
- 1 Claim 82 (previously presented): The electronic asset
- 2 utilization system as defined in claim 84, wherein the server
- 3 further comprises retransmission processing means, and, in the
- 4 event that transmission of the electronic asset or the
- 5 exchange certificate has failed, the retransmission processing
- 6 means retransmits the electronic asset or the exchange
- 7 certificate, respectively.

Claim 83 (cancelled)

- 1 Claim 84 (currently amended): An electronic asset
- 2 utilization system comprising:
- a first terminal connected to a communications network,
- 4 said first terminal including:
- 5 means for sending an order for purchasing an electronic
- 6 asset including electronic data for obtaining a service or
- 7 product being offered for sale by a vendor,
- 8 means for electronically requesting the issuance of said
- 9 electronic asset on a predetermined date and time,

- 10 means for electronically transmitting financial
- information to support said purchase of said electronic asset,
- 12 and
- means for receiving settlement information about said
- 14 purchase; and
- a server connected to the communications network, said
- 16 server including:
- a user processing section for receiving said order from
- 18 said first terminal;
- 19 a settlement processing section for receiving said
- 20 financial information from said first terminal, and for
- 21 settling a charge for said purchase in response to receiving
- 22 said financial information, and also for electronically
- 23 transmitting said settlement information about the purchase to
- 24 said first terminal after settling said charge,
- an exchange certificate issuance section for
- 26 electronically transmitting an exchange certificate including
- 27 electronic data to said first terminal or to a second terminal
- in response to said order, wherein said exchange certificate
- 29 is used for verifying verifies a user's right to receive said
- 30 electronic asset,
- an electronic asset issuance section for electronically
- 32 transmitting said electronic asset corresponding to, and in
- 33 exchange for, the exchange certificate, at said predetermined

- 34 date and time, said transmitting to one of said first
- terminal, said second terminal, or a third terminal, and
- an electronic asset status management section for
- 37 ensuring that said electronic asset is transmitted to said one
- of said first terminal, said second terminal, or said third
- 39 terminal only if said exchange certificate has been
- 40 transmitted to said server from said one of said first
- 41 terminal, said second terminal, or said third terminal;
- wherein said exchange certificate includes information
- 43 about obtaining said electronic asset, and further
- wherein said electronic asset is for obtaining the
- 45 service or product from the vendor.
- 1 Claim 85 (currently amended): An electronic asset
- 2 utilization method comprising the steps of:
- 3 purchasing an electronic asset including electronic data,
- 4 including the steps of:
- sending an order for purchasing said electronic asset for
- 6 obtaining a service or product being offered for sale by a
- 7 vendor,
- 8 requesting the issuance of said electronic asset on a
- 9 predetermined date and time,
- 10 electronically transmitting financial information to
- 11 support said purchase of said electronic asset, and
- receiving settlement information about said purchase; and

- issuing said electronic asset, including the steps of:
- receiving said order from said first terminal;
- receiving said financial information from said first
- 16 terminal,
- settling a charge for said purchase in response to
- 18 receiving said financial information,
- 19 electronically transmitting said settlement information
- 20 about the purchase to said first terminal after settling said
- 21 charge,
- 22 <u>electronically</u> transmitting an exchange certificate
- 23 including electronic data in response to said order, wherein
- 24 said exchange certificate verifies a user's right to receive
- 25 said electronic asset, and
- 26 electronically transmitting said electronic asset
- 27 corresponding to, and in exchange for, the exchange
- 28 certificate, at said predetermined date and time, said
- 29 transmitting to the user;
- wherein said electronic asset is transmitted only if said
- exchange certificate has been provided by the user prior to
- 32 issuing said electronic asset, and
- wherein said exchange certificate includes information
- 34 about obtaining said electronic asset, and further
- wherein said electronic asset is for obtaining the
- 36 service or product from the vendor.

- 1 Claim 86 (currently amended): A server connected to a
- 2 terminal by way of a communications network, said server for
- 3 use in an electronic asset utilization system comprising, said
- 4 server comprising:
- a user processing section for receiving an order from a
- 6 first terminal for purchasing an electronic asset including
- 7 electronic data for obtaining a service or product being
- 8 offered for sale by a vendor, wherein said electronic asset is
- 9 to be electronically transmitted at a predetermined date and
- 10 time;
- 11 a settlement processing section for receiving said
- 12 financial information from said first terminal, and for
- 13 settling a charge for said purchase in response to receiving
- 14 said financial information, and also for electronically
- 15 transmitting said settlement information about the purchase to
- 16 said first terminal after settling said charge,
- 17 an exchange certificate issuance section for
- 18 <u>electronically</u> transmitting an exchange certificate <u>including</u>
- 19 electronic data to said first terminal or to a second terminal
- 20 in response to said order, wherein said exchange certificate
- 21 verifies a user's right to receive said electronic asset,
- an electronic asset issuance section for electronically
- 23 transmitting said electronic asset corresponding to, and in
- 24 exchange for, the exchange certificate, at said predetermined

- 25 date and time, said transmitting to one of said first
- terminal, said second terminal, or a third terminal, and
- 27 an electronic asset status management section for
- 28 ensuring that said electronic asset is transmitted to said one
- 29 of said first terminal, said second terminal, or said third
- 30 terminal only if said exchange certificate has been
- 31 transmitted to said server from said one of said first
- 32 terminal, said second terminal, or said third terminal,
- wherein said exchange certificate includes information
- 34 about obtaining said electronic asset, and further
- wherein said electronic asset is for obtaining the
- 36 service or product from the vendor.
- 1 Claim 87 (currently amended): A server connected to a
- 2 terminal by way of a communications network, said server for
- 3 use in an electronic asset utilization system-comprising, said
- 4 server comprising:
- a user processing section for receiving an order from a
- 6 first terminal for purchasing an electronic asset including
- 7 electronic data for obtaining a service or product being
- 8 offered for sale by a vendor;
- a settlement processing section for receiving said
- 10 financial information from said first terminal, and for
- 11 settling a charge for said purchase in response to receiving
- 12 said financial information, and also for electronically

- 13 transmitting said settlement information about the purchase to
- 14 said first terminal after settling said charge,
- 15 an exchange certificate issuance section for
- 16 electronically transmitting an exchange certificate including
- 17 electronic data to the first terminal or to a second terminal
- 18 in response to said order, wherein said exchange certificate
- 19 verifies a user's right to receive said electronic asset,
- an electronic asset issuance section for electronically
- 21 transmitting said electronic asset corresponding to, and in
- 22 exchange for, the exchange certificate, said transmitting to
- 23 said one of the first terminal or the second terminal
- 24 occurring only if said exchange certificate has been
- 25 transmitted to said server from a same one of said one of said
- 26 first terminal, said second terminal, or said third terminal,
- 27 and said exchange certificate has been verified;
- wherein said exchange certificate includes information
- 29 about obtaining said electronic asset, and further
- wherein said electronic asset is for exchanging for the
- 31 service or product from the vendor.
- 1 Claim 88 (previously presented): The server of claim 87,
- 2 wherein said electronic asset is transmitted in exchange for
- 3 said exchange certificate only if said charge has been settled
- 4 by said settlement processing section.

- 1 Claim 89 (currently amended): An electronic asset
- 2 utilization method comprising the steps of:
- purchasing an electronic asset including electronic data,
- 4 said purchasing including the steps of:
- sending an order for purchasing said electronic asset for
- 6 obtaining a service or product being offered for sale by a
- 7 vendor,
- 8 electronically transmitting financial information to
- 9 support said purchase of said electronic asset, and
- receiving settlement information about said purchase; and
- issuing said electronic asset, including the steps of:
- receiving said order from said first terminal;
- 13 receiving said financial information from said first
- 14 terminal,
- 15 settling a charge for said purchase in response to
- 16 receiving said financial information,
- 17 electronically transmitting said settlement information
- 18 about the purchase to said first terminal after settling said
- 19 charge,
- 20 electronically transmitting an exchange certificate
- 21 including electronic data in response to said order, wherein
- 22 said exchange certificate verifies a user's right to receive
- 23 said electronic asset, and
- 24 electronically transmitting said electronic asset
- 25 corresponding to, and in exchange for, the exchange

- 26 certificate only if said exchange certificate has been
- 27 provided by the user prior to issuing said electronic asset,
- and only if said exchange certificate has been validated;
- wherein said exchange certificate includes information
- 30 about obtaining said electronic asset, and further
- wherein said electronic asset is for being exchanged by
- the user for obtaining the service or product from the vendor.
 - 1 Claim 90 (previously presented): The server of claim 89,
 - 2 wherein said electronic asset is transmitted in exchange for
 - 3 said exchange certificate only if said charge has been
 - 4 settled.